

## FIRST RECORD OF MOZAMBIQUE TILAPIA IN THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

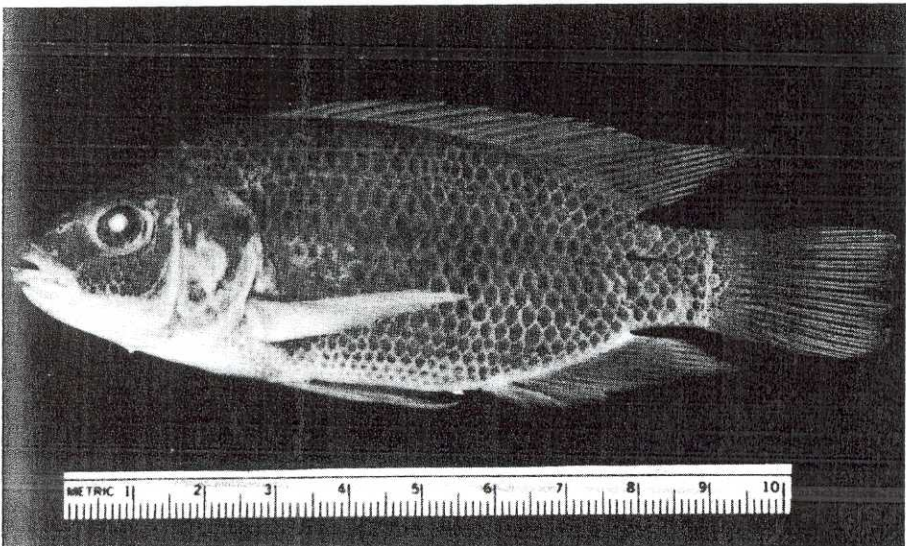
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Two cichlids were seined from a mud-bottomed pond in Lake Success, Tulare County on 30 August and 4 September 1989 (Fig. 1). The pond forms within Kencade Cove when the water in Lake Success drops to low levels. The fish were captured with an 18-m beach seine (12 mm mesh). Both fish appeared to be in good health.

Total lengths, after preservation in 95% ethanol, were 86 mm and 120 mm. The cycloid scales lacked annuli but averaged 50 and 60 circuli, respectively. Scale counts of the lateral lines were 31 and 33, respectively. The dentary teeth of our specimens were compared with those of fishes in the California Academy of Sciences. *Tilapia mossambica* and *T. zilli* were chosen for comparison because they are known to occur in California (Moyle 1976). Our specimens' teeth were very similar to the spatulate teeth of *T. mossambica* and quite different from the peg-like teeth of *T. zilli*. Complying with recent changes in nomenclature, we assigned the name *Oreochromis mossambicus* (Trewavas 1983) to our specimens.

An established population of *O. mossambicus* was first reported in Imperial County, California in 1966 (St. Amant 1966). Mozambique tilapia have been thought to occur only south of the Tehachapi Mountains. How these fish were introduced to the San

FIGURE 1. A 120 mm (TL) cichlid captured at Lake Success, California 30 August 1989. Photo by D.L. Chesemore.



Joaquin Valley and whether they will become established are important but unanswered questions. It is hoped that establishment in Lake Success will be halted by low water temperatures in winter (Trewavas 1983).

#### LITERATURE CITED

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*Received 29 May 1990.*

*Accepted 18 October 1990.*

*Associate Editor: Knutson.*